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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/650,039	08/28/2003	Ronald J. Pettis	07767-192442	6947
32330	7590	11/15/2005		
DAVID W. HIGHET, VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF IP COUNSEL 1 BECTON DRIVE, MC 110 FRANKLIN LAKES, NJ 07417-1880			EXAMINER WANG, LOUISE Z	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1648	

DATE MAILED: 11/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/650,039	Applicant(s) PETTIS, RONALD J.	
	Examiner Louise Wang, Ph.D.	Art Unit 1648	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-90 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-90 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-21, drawn to a method for directly delivering an immunomodulatory substance into an intradermal space within mammalian skin comprising administering the substance through at least one hollow needle, classified in class 604, subclass 46.
- II. Claims 22-40, drawn to a method of administering an immunomodulatory substance comprising injecting or infusing the substance intradermally through one or more microneedles, classified in class 604, subclass 46.
- III. Claims 41-54, drawn to a method for delivering an immunomodulatory substance to a subject comprising contacting the skin of the subject with a device having a dermal-access means for accurately targeting the dermal space of the subject with an efficacious amount of the bioactive substance, classified in class 604, subclass 46.
- IV. Claims 55-90, drawn to a method for delivering an immunomodulatory substance into tissue comprising delivering the substance within or beneath the skin at least into the intradermal space to access one or more compartments, classified in class 604, subclass 46.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

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Inventions I-IV are different methods with respect to starting materials, physiological mechanisms, protocol procedures, and end products; therefore, each method is patentably distinct.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above, have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification and/or recognized divergent subject matter, and require non-coextensive literature and sequence searches even though in some cases the classification is shared, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Species Election

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Irrespective of which Group is elected, Applicant is required to elect a substance for delivery as exemplified by claims 14, 16-20, 36-40, 50-54, and 69-73.

Should Applicant elect Group IV, Application is additionally required to elect a delivery device as exemplified by claims 58-60 and 68.

These species are distinct because their structures, functions, and modes of action are different; thus, each represents patentably distinct subject matter.

Furthermore, the examination of these species would require different searches in the

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scientific literature, which would not be coextensive. As such, it would be burdensome to search these species together.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. §121 to (1) elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable; and (2) list all claims readable thereon including those subsequently added.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of the other invention.

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Remarks

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Louise Wang, Ph.D. whose telephone number is 571-272-5543. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Housel can be reached on 571-272-0902. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Louise Wang, Ph.D.
Patent Examiner
10 November 2005


JEFFREY STUCKER
PRIMARY EXAMINER